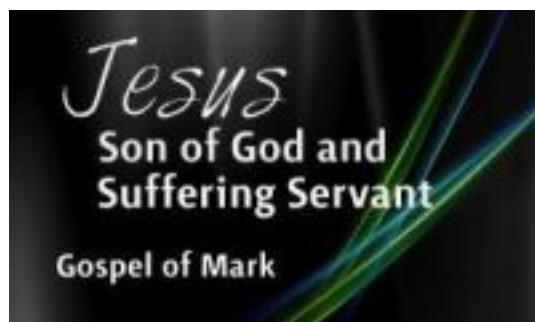


## S1 God Lives With His People (Section 2: Prayer)

*In Section 1, we looked at the key messages that Mark sought to deliver to the persecuted Christians. Mark wanted people to see Jesus' true nature as fully human and fully divine, and to see how Jesus showed himself as the Messiah in an unexpected way: through showing himself as a servant of God and of others, and through his suffering. In this section, we are going to look at how Jesus did this.*



### Learning Intentions:

I am learning:

1. that God became man and lived among us.

2. to examine key New Testament events from the ministry of Jesus and identify where God is revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
3. how Mark's Gospel influenced the early Christian communities understanding of the nature of God
4. that Jesus is truly divine
5. reflect on why the New Testament is important for Christian living.

**Success Criteria:**

1. I know that Jesus is the Son of God.
2. I have explored New Testament texts and can identify passages where God is revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. I can use examples from Mark's gospel to explain how the early Christian communities understood more about the nature of God.
4. I can use examples from Mark's gospel to show that Jesus is truly divine.
5. I have reflected on why the New Testament is important for Christians today.

**What, Who and How Did Jesus Teach?**



*Jesus Teaches About Prayer*



*Many people are surprised to find that, in the whole of the gospel writings, Jesus only teaches **one** prayer: the **Lord's Prayer**, or **Our Father**. However, he also teaches us to talk to Our Father in heaven in a less formal way, and to talk to and listen to God as we would with a friend or loved one. We are going to begin by looking at the **Our Father**.*



1 - Matthew 6: 7 - 13

### **Matthew 6:7 - 13**

**“And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:**

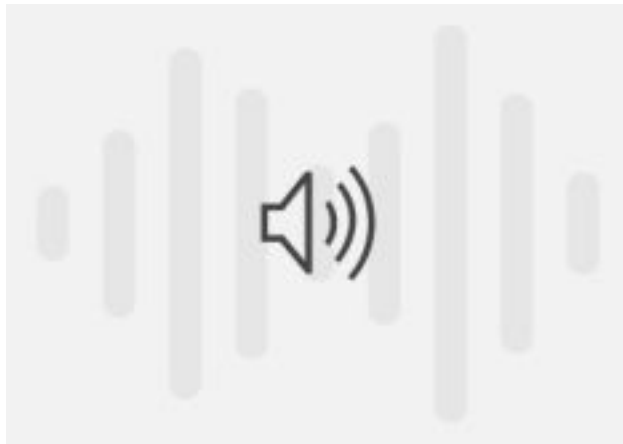
**Our Father who art in heaven,**

**Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,**

**Thy will be done,**

On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we also have forgiven our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.

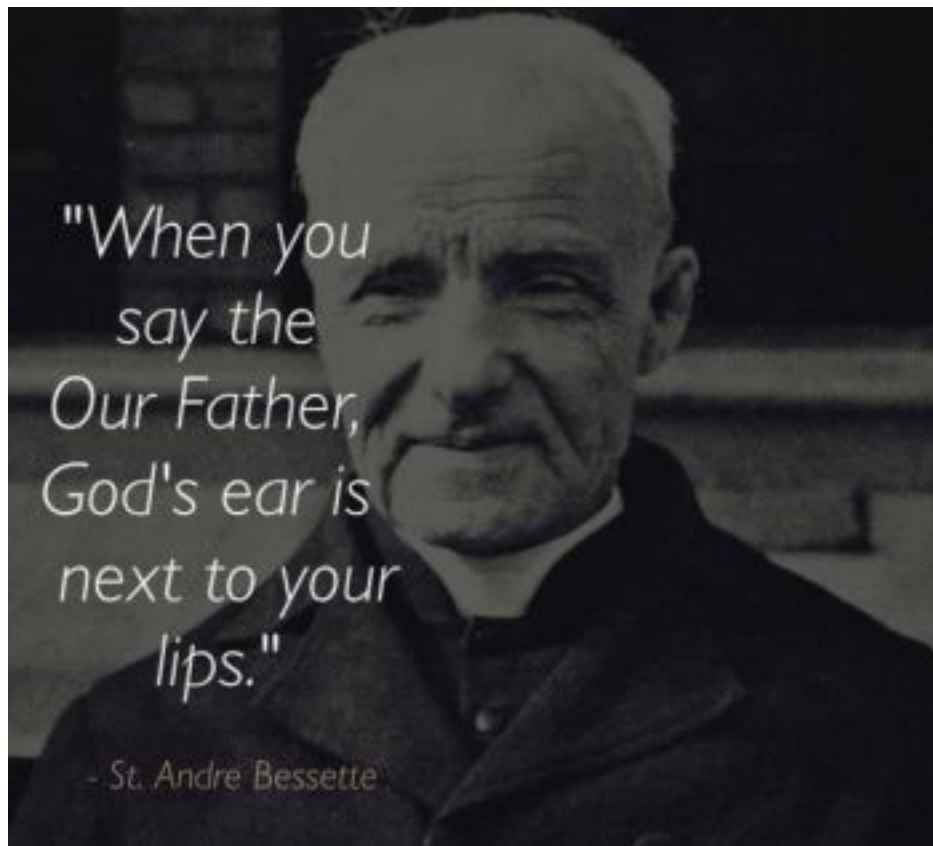


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*The Our Father is such an important prayer for all Christians that a great deal has been said and written about it. As a very basic way of looking at it, let's split it into 2 sections . . .*



1

**SECTION 1 - BRINGING OURSELVES INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD . . .** what we believe about who we are talking to . . .

**"Our Father"** Why do you think Jesus invites us to use these words, recognising God as Father? Why not "My God" or "Mighty Lord"?

**"Who art in heaven"** Why is this important? What does it tell us about what Christians believe

about God, and about the purpose of our lives?

## 2

### SECTION 2 - THE PETITIONS . . . what we are asking for; what we want . . .

**"Hallowed by thy name"** What does this say about our idea of the nature of God?

**"Thy kingdom come"** *This is what Jesus has been teaching about -the Kingdom of God. He has been teaching how this can be a reality, and identifying himself as the Son of the Father. What is your understanding of the phrase "Kingdom of God"? Where is it? What is it like? Who is it for?*

**"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"** We ask that things be done as God wills, not as we want. Christians believe heaven - being in the presence of God - to be a perfect place. Why would we pray *not* to have what we think we want, but to trust God's will?

**"Give us this day our daily bread"** In prayer, we can ask God for anything. Why ask for something so basic?

**"and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us"** Again, what does this tell us about the nature of God versus human nature? How important do you think forgiveness is in our lives?

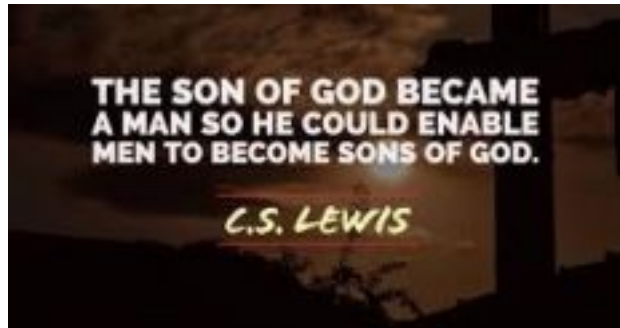
**"lead us not into temptation"** We have already acknowledged that we do "trespass" against God; we ask God to help us to identify the things that might tempt us into that behaviour. What do you think are the main temptations in our modern lives that lead people away from God's will?

**"but deliver us from evil."** We recognise that there is evil in the world, and that the love of God can save us from it. What is our part in that? can we do whatever we like and then ask God to make everything right again?

**Summary Task** Having worked through the Our Father and looked at each section in detail, write a brief response saying why you think it is such an effective and well-loved prayer, and why it remains such a central part of Christian life.

*Informal Prayer " In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house and went off to a lonely place and prayed there." Mark 1:35 " After saying goodbye to them he went off into the hills to pray." Mark 6:46 At various points in the gospels we see Jesus pray in a less formal way. On these occasions Jesus often goes off on his own to pray, and this often happens when Jesus has been with people, teaching and performing miracles: the first verse above happens on the morning after Jesus cures a man with an unclean spirit and heals Peter's mother-in-law, and the second happens after Jesus feeds the five thousand. Jesus, as the Son of God, acts as teacher and miraculous healer and makes the Father clear to all who see and hear him. As Son of Man however, we see him turn to his Father in prayer for strength and peace.*





***Discussion Point** In what kind of situations might **we** use informal prayer?*

***Task** We see Jesus take time to be alone in prayer with God the Father. We cannot know what Jesus said in his prayers in those quiet, private times, but based upon what he taught about prayer in the Our Father - about the importance of acknowledging God as a part of our lives, welcoming and accepting his will, and asking for his help - and on the circumstances in which he prays, we can perhaps suppose that Jesus takes strength from prayer. This has been a particularly difficult and trying time for all of us, and it may be that you feel a bit worn down, or feel that you have a particular challenge or responsibility you have to face. **Working quietly and on your own, take a bit of quiet time to just think about what you have had to do over the last few months, and what lies ahead of you. It may help to focus your mind if you jot down a couple of main points. Use these as a basis for a time of quiet prayer, thanking God for helping you to get through the challenges you have overcome up to now, and asking for his help in what lies ahead. You might have this quiet time in your classroom, or you might use they preparation for a quiet time of prayer at home, in your church or anywhere else where you can be alone. If you find it difficult to come up with something, use the time to say the Our Father, but concentrating closely on the words.***

